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Class

Book

PRESENTED BY

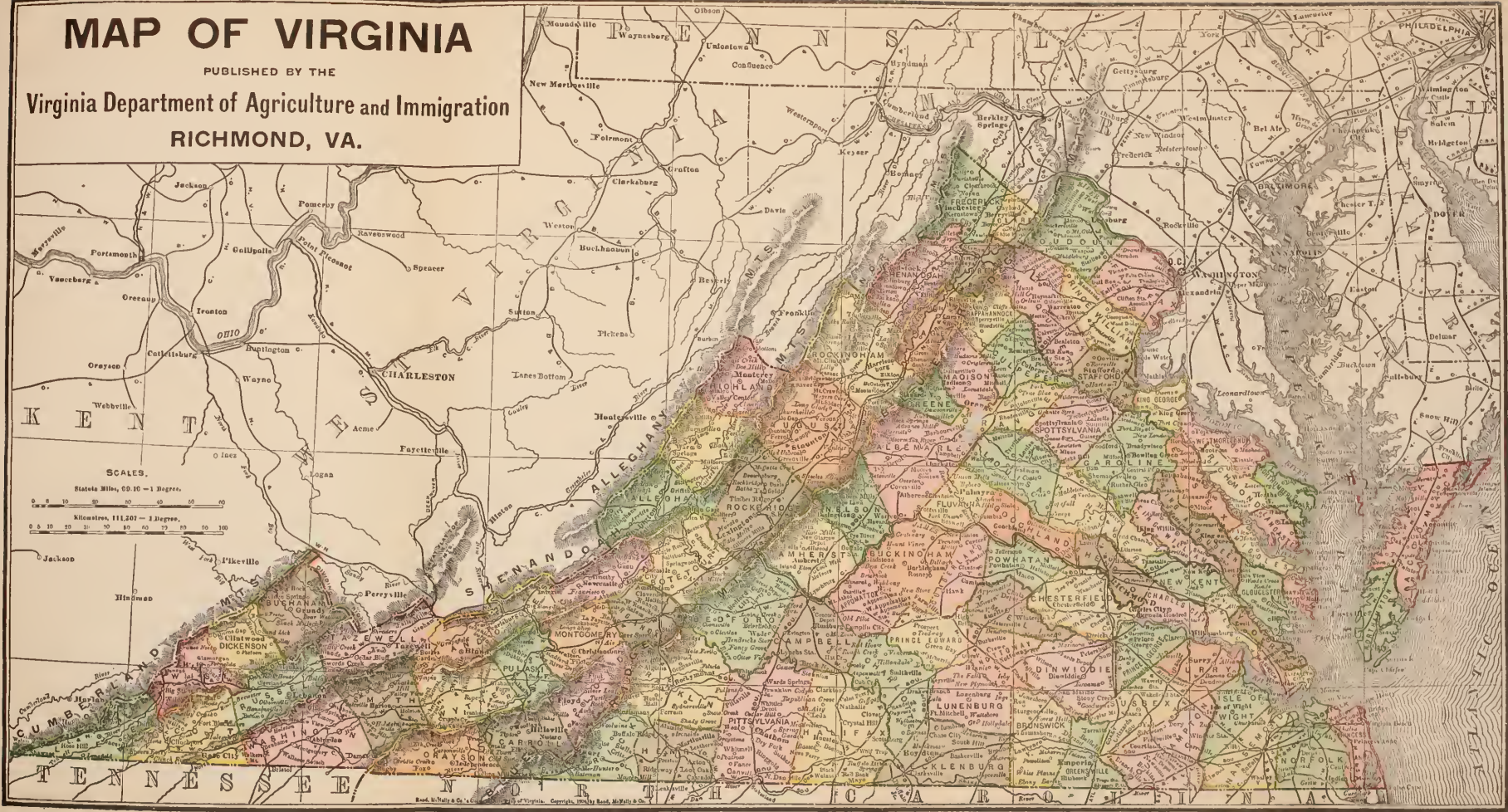
Hyndman
Cumberland
Berkley Springs
Romney
Clear Spring
Clearbrook
FREDERICK
Winchester
Berryville
White Post
Lincoln
Philomont
SHENANDOAH
Edinburg
Haymarket
Orleans
Warrenton
Gainesville
RAPPAHANNOCK
Sperryville
Woodville
Calverton
Bealeton
Remington
Brandy Sta.
Culpeper
MADISON
Madison
Mitchell
Locustdale
True Blue
GREENE
Dawsonville
Rock Springs
Barboursville
Spottsylvania
SPOTTSYLVA
Lewiston
Sulphur Mines
ALBEMARLE
Campbell
Charlottesville
Union Mills
Covesville
Palmyra
FLUVANNA
Scottsville
Fork Union
Columbia
Goochland
POWHATAN
Powhatan
Jefferson
Midlothian
Macon
Cumberland
CHESTERF
Chesterfield
Farmville
Appomattox
PRINCE EDWARD
Green Bay
Prospect
Burkeville
Crewe
Nottoway
Blackstone
Dinwiddie
Smithville
LUNENBURG
Lunenburg
Ft. Mitchell
Chase City
South Hill
BRUNSWICK
Thomasburg
Lawrenceville
Boydton
Baskerville
Clarksville
White Plains
Emporia

MAP OF VIRGINIA

PUBLISHED BY THE

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Immigration

RICHMOND, VA.



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MONTICELLO.
THE HOME OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.

VIRGINIA

Information for the Homeseeker and Investor

PUBLISHED BY THE
STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND IMMIGRATION
G. W. KOINER, Commissioner

F221
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1907

Department of Agriculture and Immigration

of the State of Virginia.

G. W. KOINER, Commissioner.

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VIRGINIA:

Information for the Homeseeker

Almost every man born outside the borders of the Old Dominion has found occasion to comment on the enthusiasm with which Virginians discuss their native State. Indeed, the Virginian among strangers is regarded as something more than an enthusiast—he is put down as a rhapsodist. No clime, whatever its charms, can divorce him from his native hearth; his thoughts ever revert to the State of his birth, and, like the Celestial who prays that his ashes may repose in the land of his forefathers, he always turns to the Old Dominion when he feels that his days are being numbered.

Regarding the matter from the standpoint of one who has never dwelt in Virginia, this home instinct of her people seems almost incomprehensible, but the fact finds ready explanation among those who have lived in the time-honored Commonwealth. Once a householder establishes his hearthstone in the Old Dominion, the subtle charm of the State holds him enthralled and adds the stranger to the long list of so-called rhapsodists.

In days agone it has been said that the people of the State which claims Washington and Lee as her sons are wont to dwell in the past and to drowse their way through life with memories of what has been. And, surely, if ever this species of lotus-eating were pardonable in any case, it should be in the Virginian, for behind him are three centuries of glorious history.

But the charge of inertia has now grown obsolete; today it would fall for want of truth. Time was when it seemed as if Virginia had grown inert and supine, but out of this very inertia was to be born her salvation.

Staggering under the wounds inflicted by the war of secession —staggering when other less spirited communities would have fallen never to rise again—she bravely faced the changed conditions and wrought order out of chaos. Surely this was no task for rhapsodists.

VIRGINIA SADDLE HORSES.

And yet it must be admitted that the Hand which tempers the wind for the shorn lamb guided Virginia in these dark days and opened her eyes to opportunities within her borders which never before had been realized. Mayhap the Old Dominion, even after the first light of her illimitable resources had burst on her vision, was still slow to see and understand her wealth; but today it is fully recognized, and her people are rejoicing in her blessings.

When the quaint little ships Discovery, Susan Constant, and Good Speed sailed up James River one sunny April day in the year 1607, the small company, which had braved the terrors of raging seas and the hazards of fate in an unexplored country, looked upon low shores covered with flowers of "divers colors" and saw the horizon fringed with "goodly trees" in full foliage. The Arcadian land, it is said, sent a perfumed breath of its attractions far out to ocean long before these pioneers in Anglo-Saxon civilization reached the borders of the Old Dominion; but it was perhaps a century later before the English saw even dimly the extent of the terrestrial treasure they had discovered. And not until two or three decades ago did the world awaken to the fact that Virginia's charms were something more than skin deep—that beneath her soil lay riches even more desirable than her superb agricultural resources.

The tale, in soothe, is but half told yet, and it is marvelous in the telling. Statisticians, it is true, can mathematically demonstrate the blessings of the ancient Commonwealth, and this they have already done, but the Old Dominion, to be duly appreciated, must be seen and known by personal contact.

It seems as if the Master Hand that created this favored section and limned it in undying colors on the map of the universe foresaw at the very dawn of things that destiny had writ an inspiring history for Virginia—that after her metamorphosis from a wilderness into a smiling panorama of plantations she was to undergo the travail of hideous wars, which in turn were to be succeeded by conditions almost Utopian. With all her proud traditions of the past the Old Dominion has yet to reach her zenith. The years that have been put behind her are the years of a formative period; the decades that are to come will mark the fruition of her hopes. Henceforth, industry, as exemplified in a hundred forms, will be her gracious helpmeet. And with such support what State can fail? Nor must the Virginian of future years walk in a narrow

VIRGINIA FINE CATTLE.

path, for he has many fields of usefulness in which he may expand. Never did any country under the sun offer more diversity of opportunity or finer chances for the founding of fortunes than does this State.

Geopraphically speaking, the Old Dominion is little short of amazing. Within her borders are the immaculate shores of the Atlantic, a plenteous Tidewater section, and then a rolling Piedmont country that gradually undulates from green hillocks to blue hills, which in turn are succeeded by fertile mountains of no mean altitude. The man who feels himself affected in his daily work by the surrounding landscape can take his choice of any style of scenery. He will find it all in Virginia, provided he does not demand that Titanic ruggedness which, though astounding to the eye, is the synonym of barrenness and desolation. The landscape features of the Old Dominion, in short, may be described as "peaceful." And well it should be so, for the old State yields her riches readily and gives plenty to those who show industry or even a moderate degree of perseverance. Her soil is ever grateful and her very atmosphere invigorating. No feature of this venerable "Mother of Presidents" is harsh—neither her scenery, her climate, her laws, nor her children. This doubtless is what makes Virginians love her. Those whose forbears have lived within the limits of the Commonwealth know that she is a gentle, kindly mother, and this responsiveness and gratitude of her sons is necessarily innate. But for the stranger, Virginia has the same welcome which has been accorded those who claim her as the place of their nativity. "Benevolent assimilation" might well be adopted as her motto.

When one recalls the history of Virginia, it soon appears that the present conditions existing in the State show a wide departure from the original plans of those who felled her virgin forests and pushed the red man aside for the people of today. The colonists to whom we owe our existence were prompted by not altogether unselfish motives in founding an English settlement at Jamestown. Their prime object—or rather that of those who financed the movement—was the discovery of gold. For some fantastic reason it was believed that Virginia would prove an *El Dorado*, and many were the months—if not years—wasted by the pioneers in vainly seeking for the yellow metal. True, gold in recent years has been discovered in the State and even now is mined in no incon-

LOADING BEEVES FOR EXPORT, VIRGINIA IS THE ONLY STATE WHERE FAT CATTLE ARE EXPORTED DIRECT FROM THE PASTURE FIELDS.

siderable quantities, but it is not to this metal that the Old Dominion owes her prestige.

After the English abandoned this senseless occupation, the whilom argonauts drifted into the cultivation of tobacco, and for decades, this was their chief occupation. This crop, which even today is one of the staples of the Commonwealth, had a far-reaching effect upon the economic conditions of the State. The colonists in cultivating their tobacco, found that the plant constantly required new soil, and, as a consequence, they pushed farther and farther into the wilderness from Jamestown. This policy soon prevented centralization of population and rapidly began to make Virginia a State of huge plantations and comparatively small settlements. The conditions in New England were just the opposite.

For nearly two centuries the same process of territorial expansion went on in the Old Dominion, and today its farm lands reach from the ocean to the high hills on her western borders, while no vast cities have been created to menace her peace and draw away her rural population from the fields. But although Virginia tobacco still has a world-wide fame—a name to conjure with—the aromatic "weed" no longer is King in the old Commonwealth. Farmers long since have discovered that the sod of the Old Dominion, aided by a delightful climate, is a willing producer of scores of profitable crops which would sustain the people luxuriously even though there were no such blessed thing as tobacco.

Indeed, scores of new industries have come to the front in recent years, and though the tobacco planter still works his stately fields, he finds thousands of Virginians who never give this fascinating crop a thought. In some sections the fruit-raising industry has a monopoly and the products of its heavily-laden orchards are gaining a degree of celebrity which is transoceanic. Albemarle apples, in fact, are said to have daily graced the tables of the late Queen Victoria, while the State's vineyards are producing wines which lack nothing to put them in competition with those of France and Germany.

Although farming in the Old Dominion was never so profitable as now, and although the early tendencies of the colony indicated that Virginia could never be aught but an agricultural State, investigations of recent years have proved almost the opposite. The State is as rich in minerals as she is in her vegetable products.

A VIRGINIA SHEEP PASTURE.

It is little short of astonishing to note the variety of her minerals and the richness of the veins in which they lie.

The southwestern part of the State, wherein are located most of the mines today, fairly hums with machinery, and year by year, as the railroads extend their branches, this favored section is increasing in prosperity and wealth. There are many who predict that this part of Virginia is destined to lead all the State; but the past has shown that it is not safe to prophesy about the Old Dominion. Nor could one persuade a fox-hunting Virginian from Tidewater that his environments had lost one whit of their charms, while those in the rolling Piedmont region would be equally as stubborn in making concessions. The truth is that Virginia's *post bellum* renaissance has meant improvement in every direction—practical results that would have seemed incredible to our forefathers or even to the good people of fifty years ago.

This state of affairs, however, is not attributable alone to native Virginians. Much of it is owing to those from other states and countries who have settled here. Millions in wealth have poured into Virginia since the surrender at Appomattox, and every day sees new families in the Old Dominion. The welcome for all of these is warm. It could not be otherwise, for the hospitality of the Virginian is innate—a precious legacy of picturesque ancestors, whose isolation made them rejoice at the very sight of a new-comer. Fortunately, however, the charms of the State have drawn hither only the most desirable classes—people whose presence would strengthen any community. The Commonwealth has been spared the heterogeneous hordes that invade many other States.

While, as has been explained the cultivation of various crops in early times at once marked Virginia out for an agricultural State with widely separated towns and villages, her cities recently have gone forward with tremendous strides and are rapidly taking first place in the galaxy of American municipalities. The capital of the Commonwealth—Richmond—is a town which could never lose her individuality, her stability, or her charm. Her history alone would perpetuate her, but today she stands strong and serene on her seven hills like the Eternal City and presents a curious composite picture of culture, thrift, progressiveness and quaint adherence to old traditions and customs. No degree of prosperity and no influx of wealth could make Richmond abandon some of her social ideas, nor would she surrender the pride in her past for all the

GOVERNOR CLAUDE A. SWANSON OF VIRGINIA.

riches of Golconda; but she has profited by observation none the less. From her people have emanated practical ideas and practical suggestions, which have attracted attention everywhere. Her lessons have been learnt at no little sacrifice; having been learned, they have been productive of splended results.

And nothing less should be said of the other cities in the Commonwealth. Some of these are well-nigh as venerable as Richmond, while others, equally as thrifty and almost as well populated, have sprung up almost in a night as the result of new industries never dreamed of five decades ago. The time-honored Commonwealth, indeed, now walks with quickened step despite the lapse of nearly three centuries. Her elasticity is the child of prosperity. A magnificent exposition to mark her tercentenary will show to the world in 1907 what Virginia has been, is now, and what she will be in centuries to come. This grand enterprise means much for the Old Dominion, but after all it will only be a colossal *tableau vivant*, whose details are already known to all those who have lived in Virginia. Strangers, however, will be amazed by what they behold.

But enough—another Virginian may be accused of rhapsodizing, for these lines are penned by way of preface. Were they to appear in this volume as an after-word—a word following the detailed account of Virginia's charms and resources—the most unresponsive would say that their apparent hyperbole is more than justified. And could the alien who reads this book visit Virginia, he would admit that no rhetoric describing the Old Dominion can be much too fervid or too florid.

WHAT THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA SAYS.

The following extract from Governor Claude A. Swanson's inaugural address delivered before the Legislature February 1, 1906, presents, in brief, an excellent review of the climate and soil and the agricultural, mineral and commercial resources of the State:

"There is a Virginia of the past resplendent with the heroic achievments of a great and glorious people; there is a Virginia of the present crowned with possibilities that can surpass the splendors of the proud past and make all that has gone before in her history but the prelude to a greater destiny.

"No State in this Union has richer or more varied resources than Virginia. Her mild, warm, equable climate furnishes a refuge alike to those scorched by the suns of the South or chilled by the

TROLLEY CARS THROUGH THE TRUCKING FIELDS IN VIRGINIA.

winds of the North. There is not an agricultural product known to the temperate zone that cannot be profitably, and is not successfully, raised in Virginia. In extreme Southside Virginia are seen great white fields of cotton, as rich in beauty and luxuriant in growth as can be found in North Carolina or Georgia. In Piedmont and Southern Virginia are produced the great crops of tobacco which largely contribute to the world's supply. The magnificent Valley of Virginia, raising great crops of wheat, corn, oats and hay, is almost unspeakable in her prodigality of production. The beautiful hilltops and mountains of Southwest and Northern Virginia, with their spontaneous and perennial growth of blue grass, have browsing on them herds of cattle and sheep. This lovely section, with its witchery of scenery, salubriousness of climate, rich return for investments, forms a combination rarely seen and unsurpassed by any section of this Union. In Eastern and Tidewater Virginia we have large truck farms and gardens, which furnish the vast population of the Eastern cities with their vegetables and foods. The profits of this industry are already immense, but the industry is still in its infancy and its possibilities for the future are immeasurable. Nowhere can fruit grow to greater perfection than in Virginia, and her great crops of apples, peaches and grapes are bringing her immense returns and have brighter promises for the future. There is not a farm product known to the temperate zone that cannot be raised in the varied soil, climate and conditions of Virginia. Everywhere in the State are seen evidences of intelligent and scientific farming, of progress and prosperity. The increase in farm products and values in recent years has been striking and excelled by few States in the Union. We have produced this immense agricultural wealth, and yet not more than half our land is under cultivation. When the population of Virginia, which is each year rapidly increasing, shall put under cultivation the entire soil, the farming wealth of the State will be amazing. With near and accessible markets, no State offers finer opportunities or greater inducements to farmers than Virginia.

"COAL AND ORES.

"But, great as are our advantages in agriculture, our superiority in other directions is still more pre-eminent. There is scarcely a useful mineral known to modern civilization that is not found and

PICKING STRAWBERRIES IN VIRGINIA.

cannot be successfully mined in Virginia. We have zinc, copper, iron and coal mines all in profitable operation. We have demonstrated that iron can be produced here as cheaply as elsewhere and the products of our furnaces are distributed to all parts of the world. Coal is the foundation of the marvelous industrial advance of this century. Upon it Great Britain built her naval, commercial and manufacturing supremacy. Already in Virginia and the eastern part of West Virginia, which, from its location, must be used and developed through Virginia, have been disclosed almost as many square miles of coal, and of superior quality, as that upon which Great Britain established her great pre-eminence. The imagination cannot picture the vast manufactures, the varied industrial enterprises which the possession of this vast supply of coal will bring to Virginia. Besides, the rivers that run from our mountains to the seashore, the Potomac, Shenandoah, Rappahannock, Appomattox, James and others, are possessed of immense water power, capable of operating large and innumerable establishments.

"In Chesapeake Bay, which skirts our Eastern Shore, we have the finest and safest harbors on the Atlantic coast. This bay is the finest body of inland water in the world, and upon its smooth surface could ride almost the world's fleets and navies. These magnificent harbors offer opportunities for greater mercantile and commercial enterprises, world-wide in their trade and scope. The great increase in our exports and foreign commerce give proof of the future greatness of these parts. The nearness and cheapness of coal to these harbors furnish the best location on this continent for manufacturing industries with products to be distributed in the markets of the world."

The Manufacturers' Record of December 21, 1905, says:

"While it is true that the industrial development of the South is going forward with amazing rapidity, it is nevertheless true that, by virtue of the extent of the agricultural interests of the South, agriculture is yet the foundation of the business of that section. A change from poverty to prosperity of the farmers, and a change from land without a selling value to land in demand at an advance of 50 to 150 per cent, over the nominal price of one or two years ago, is the most far-reaching development in Southern advancement of the last quarter of a century. It is far-reaching in many ways. It means that within the last year or two Southern farm properties

SALT WATER BATHING IN VIRGINIA.

have increased not less than $1,000,000,000 in value, probably at least $1,500,000,000.

"The realization by the people of the entire South, bankers, merchants and farmers, of the power of co-operation in the proper handling and marketing of the two great staples—cotton and tobacco—has brought about a community of interest which is destined to exert a very great influence upon the entire business interests of the South and of that portion of the business world which is in any way dependent upon these staples or upon the general prosperity of the South."

The Virginia people set such esteem upon the agricultural interests of the State, and the promotion of the various departments of its agricultural industries, that they have incorporated in their constitution, their organic law, a department of agriculture and immigration to be under the management and control of a bureau of agriculture. This publication is made by the Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with the requirements of an act of Assembly.

It is the object of this hand-book to present the agricultural and industrial features of the State, together with its climatic and topographical advantages, in such a way as to show that the State of Virginia, old in its history and hoary in its traditions, is exhibiting a new life of activity and enterprise and, turning her back upon the past, is setting her face towards the rising sun whose advent is gilding the East with a golden splendor.

A free use has been made of the antecedent text-books, and their descriptions, statements, and statistics have been availed of in the preparation of this manual. "I take all knowledge for my province," said Lord Bacon. In that spirit the author of this hand-book has appropriated whatever seemed of practical value wherever found.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

No State in the Union offers more attractive inducements, and extends a more inviting hand, to the home-seeker than Virginia. In climate, diversity of soils, fruits, forests, water supply, mineral deposits, and variety of landscape, including mountain and valley, hill and dale, she offers advantages that are unsurpassed. Truly did Captain John Smith, the adventurous and dauntless father of Virginia, suggest that "Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation."

PICKING COTTON IN SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA.

Virginia is centrally situated in the Atlantic tier of States, being midway between Maine and Florida. It lies between the extremes of heat and cold, removed alike from the sultry, protracted summers of the more southern states, and the severe winters and devastating storm and cyclones of the north and northwest. Its limits north and south are the latitudes of 39° 27′ and 36° 31′, corresponding to California and Southern Europe. The area of the State is 42,450 square miles, of which 2,325 are covered with water. There are 40,125 square miles, or 25,680,000 acres, of land. The State is a little larger than Tennessee, Kentucky, or Ohio, and not quite so large as Pennsylvania. The extreme length of the State along its southern border is 440 miles. The extreme width from north to south is 192 miles.

NATURAL DIVISIONS

Virginia is divided into five natural divisions, consisting of belts of country extending across the State from northeast to southwest, and succeeding each other from the Atlantic coast to the western State line. They rise in successive steps from the sea level, and differ in natural scenery, climate, soil and productions. These natural divisions are known as Tidewater, Middle Virginia, the Piedmont, the Valley, and Appalachia.

The Tidewater, or coastal plain, is part of the lowland that skirts the seashore from New York to the Gulf of Mexico. The visible outer or eastern boundary of Tidewater is the coast line of the State; but in reality it continues seaward many miles, forming a great submarine terrace, or shelf. Its inland or western boundary is a line extending from Widewater on the Potomac river below Alexandria, through Fredericksburg, Richmond, Petersburg, Emporia in Greensville county, to the North Carolina line. This western boundary, though somewhat irregular, does not vary much from a straight line. The Tidewater section is penetrated by four navigable rivers that cut deep channels, with alluvial bottoms of rare fertility, and inland ports for ocean steamers.

Middle Virginia is a wide, undulating plain extending from the western boundary of Tidewater to the Piedmont belt. It is the largest of the five natural divisions, and comprises more than one-fourth of the State.

The Piedmont Region, as the name implies, lies along the foot of the mountains, and forms the base of the Blue Ridge, varying in

SEINING FISH IN VIRGINIA RIVERS.

width from twenty to thirty miles. It is a portion of the belt that begins in New England and stretches thence southward to Georgia and Alabama. It extends, therefore, across the State from Maryland to North Carolina.

The Valley of Virginia is the belt of rolling country lying between the Blue Ridge on the east, and the broken ranges, known collectively as the Alleghanies, on the west. Its length is over three hundred miles, and its average width about twenty. It is the most productive and picturesque portion of the great limestone valley that stretches from Canada to Alabama. Though one continuous valley, it is subdivided into many minor ones by detached ranges and the troughs of five rivers that penetrate it. It is very fertile, producing grasses and grain in abundance, and is often spoken of as the "Garden Spot of the State."

The Appalachian region is the most western section of the State, consisting of twelve rugged counties, traversed by the Alleghanies proper, and their numerous spurs and minor ranges, being a portion of the Appalachian system of mountains. These ranges inclose long trough-like valleys that are admirably adapted to grazing, as are also the sides and slopes of the mountains.

Comprehensively stated, the above are the five grand divisions of the State according to its natural conformation. There are other and smaller subdivisions which bear names that have a local signification. These are the Eastern Shore, consisting of the counties of Accomac and Northampton that compose the southern termination of the fruitful peninsula which separates Chesapeake Bay from the Atlantic ocean; the Northern Neck, a long and narrow strip, lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers; the Peninsula, distinctly so called to discriminate it from the other and smaller necks of land formed by many of the rivers and estuaries of the Tidewater section: this Peninsula lies between the York and James rivers; the Southside, composed of the counties east of the Blue Ridge and between James river and the southern border of the State; and Blue Ridge, consisting of the three picturesque counties of Floyd, Carroll, and Grayson, with an area of 1,230 square miles, forming part of the elevated plateau into which the Blue Ridge chain or system expands in the southwestern portion of the State.

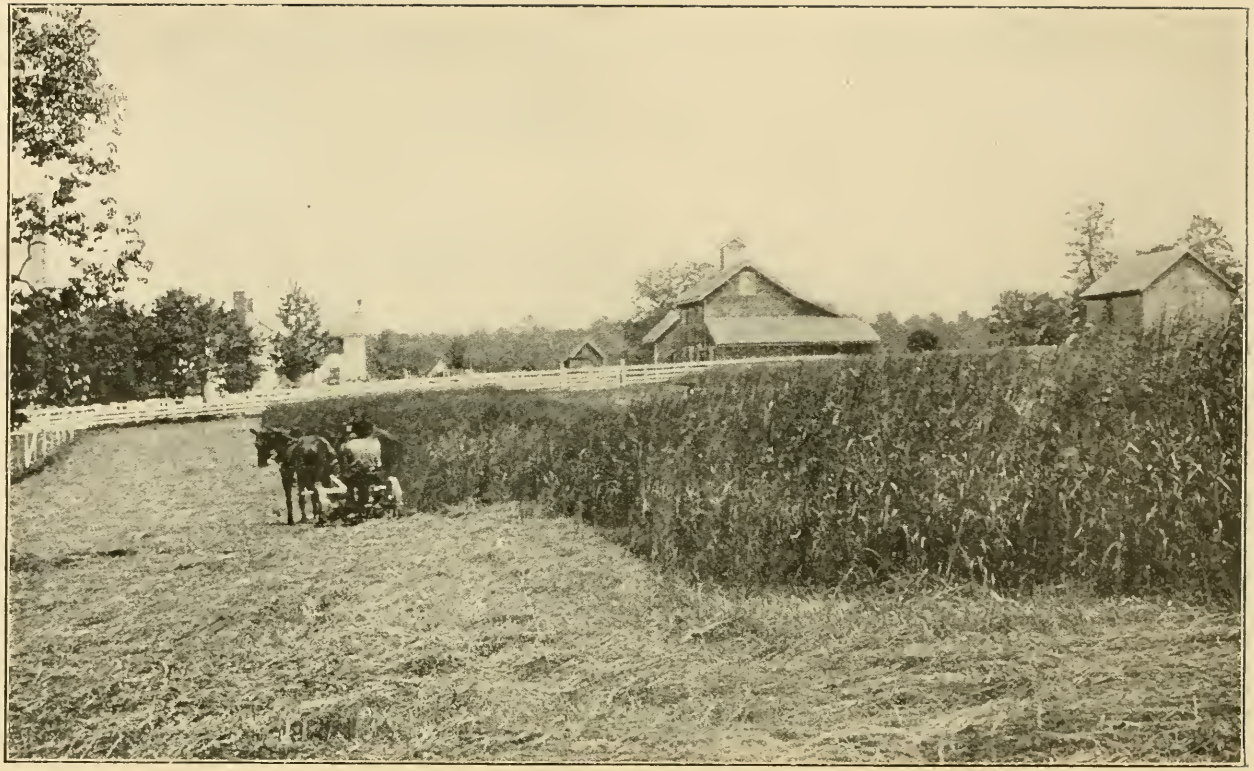
A VIRGINIA TOBACCO FIELD.

MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION

A somewhat more particular description of these natural divisions of the State, their topographical features, productions and resources, water-ways and climate, may be of interest.

Tidewater Virginia or the Coastal Plain, as it is sometimes called, comprises approximately one-fourth of the State. It receives the name Tidewater from the fact that the streams that penetrate it feel the ebb and flow of the tides from the ocean up to the head of navigation on the line that separates it from Middle Virginia. It consists altogether of lowlands, having an average altitude of about 150 feet along its inner or western border (the line that separates it from Middle Virginia) and inclining seaward until, at the coastline, it dips beneath the Atlantic. It consists chiefly of broad and generally level plains, while a considerable portion, nearest to the bay, is occupied by shallow bays and estuaries, and by marshes that are in most instances reached by the ocean tides. These marshes abound with wild duck and sora. Tidewater is mainly an alluvial country. The soil is chiefly light, sandy loam, underlaid with clay. The alluvial deposits are enriched by the decomposition of shells, forming extensive beds of marl. Its principal productions are fruits and early vegetables, which are raised in extensive "market gardens," and shipped in large quantities to northern cities. This is called "trucking," and is a lucrative business. The trade in potatoes, strawberries, peanuts, etc., is especially large, and last year yielded altogether in the State some $12,000,000. The fertilizing minerals—gypsum, marl and greensand—abound, and their judicious use readily restores the lands when exhausted by improvident cultivation.

Middle Virginia is a wide undulating plain, crossed by many many rivers that have cut their channels to a considerable depth, and are bordered by alluvial bottom lands that are very productive. The soil consists of clays with a subsoil of disintegrated sandstone rocks that supply additional elements of fertility. The soil of Virginia varies according to the nature of the rock from which it is formed. The lowlands of Tidewater are marked by light, sandy loam with substratum of clay, enriched by the decomposition of shells, forming marl banks, or beds. In Middle and Piedmont Virginia the surface, in general, consists of clay, with subsoil of disintegrated sandstone rocks. In the Valley and Appalachia,



HAY FIELD IN VIRGINIA---YIELD, 2 TONS PER ACRE, THIRD CROP.

limestone soil predominates. This section (Middle Virginia) has for its eastern border the rocky rim of Tidewater, where the average elevation above the ocean is about 150 feet. It gradually rises towards its western limit at Piedmont, where it attains a maximum elevation of 500 feet. This is the largest of the natural divisions, and contains some 12,500 square miles. Nowhere on the continent can there be found a region so generally penetrated by navigable streams. Four large rivers, having their sources in the Piedmont and Appalachian region, traverse the Tidewater and Middle Virginia sections. The Potomac below Washington, the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg, the York, and the James below Richmond, rise and fall with the ocean tides, and are navigable from Chesapeake Bay. Below the tidewater line (or head of navigation) they broaden, and are sometimes miles in width.

The principal agricultural productions of Middle Virginia are corn, wheat, oats and tobacco. The tobacco raised in this section and in Piedmont, known as the "Virginia Leaf," is the best grown in the United States, and has a world-wide reputation for excellence. In this section, as in Tidewater, the low bottom lands along the streams formed by the sediment of the waters, are exceptionally productive. The second bottoms, as they are called, being a more elevated terrace, have usually a subsoil of dark, but sometimes yellow clay; these are very rich and susceptible of constant and severe tillage.

THE PIEDMONT SECTION

This belt (for it is properly a belt, extending as it does through the State, with a length of 250 miles and an average width of only 25 miles) is marked by hills and minor mountain ranges and spurs, with valleys of varied form between. The surface is diversified and surpassingly picturesque. The line of separation from Middle Virginia contains wide plains of excellent fertility, which spontaneously cover themselves with nutritious grasses when not in cultivation. The elevation of this belt varies from 300 to 1,200 feet. The soil is heavier than that of Middle Virginia, the subsoil being of stiff and dark-red clay. The disintegrated sandstone rocks supply elements of fertility. On the slopes of the Blue Ridge grapes of delicious flavor grow luxuriantly. These produce excellent wines, and the clarets have a wide fame. The pippin apples of the section are of unrivalled excellence.

A WHITE PINE FOREST IN VIRGINIA.

THE VALLEY

The "Great Valley," as it is descriptively called, is, in its general configuration, one continuous valley, included between the two mountain chains that extend throughout the State; but it more in a particular sense, made up of five smaller valleys that succeed one another in the following order, from northeast to southwest: the Shenandoah Valley; the James River Valley; the Roanoke River Valley; the Kanawha or New River Valley; and the Valley of the Houston or Tennessee. It is 242 feet above tidewater at Harper's Ferry where the Shenandoah, uniting with the Potomac, breaks through the barrier of the Blue Ridge, and gradually rises until it attains the height of 1,687 feet at its southwestern extremity, where the waters of the Holston leave the State and pass into Tennessee. The Valley is much higher along its western side, next to the Alleghanies, than on its eastern side. It is one of the most abundantly watered regions on the face of the globe. Deep limestone beds form the floor of the Great Valley, and from these beds the soil derives an exceeding fertility, peculiarly adapted to the growth of grasses and grain. One who enjoys its varied and picturesquely beautiful landscapes; the long undulating line of the ridge that takes the name of Blue from the heavens that bend to bathe its summits in their own soft tints; its abundant crops of cereals; its cattle grazing upon its grass-embedded meadows; its orchards bearing every fruit known to the temperate zone, and its vineyards bursting with the juices that produce delicious wines, will not wonder that it bears the name of the "garden spot" of the State.

APPALACHIA

This is the mountainous section to the west of the Great Valley, It overlooks the Valley to the east, and passes into the rugged upland of the Cumberland plateau on the west. Its altitude varies from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above the sea level. Some of the valley and slopes are of sandstone, some of slates and shales, some of limestone, so that they present a great variety of surface. The sandstone ridges are poor and unproductive, but the valleys are fertile, the soil being enriched by limestone. These valleys and mountain slopes are heavily carpeted with grass, upon which large numbers of cattle are raised. It is noted as a grazing country.

A VIRGINIA GRAZING FARM.

It is an abundantly watered region, and its mountains are covered, their tops and their sides, with forests that yield a variety of valuable timber.

FAVORABLE CONDITIONS

The advantages and favorable conditions that invite the home-seeker may, in general terms, be included under the following heads: (1) Situation and Topography, (2) Climate, (3) Agricultural Resources, (4) Rivers and Water Supply, (5) Forests, (6) Fruits, (7) Minerals and Mining, (8) Commercial Facilities. In these several inducements Virginia holds a place second to no State in the Union; probably the pre-eminent place over them all.

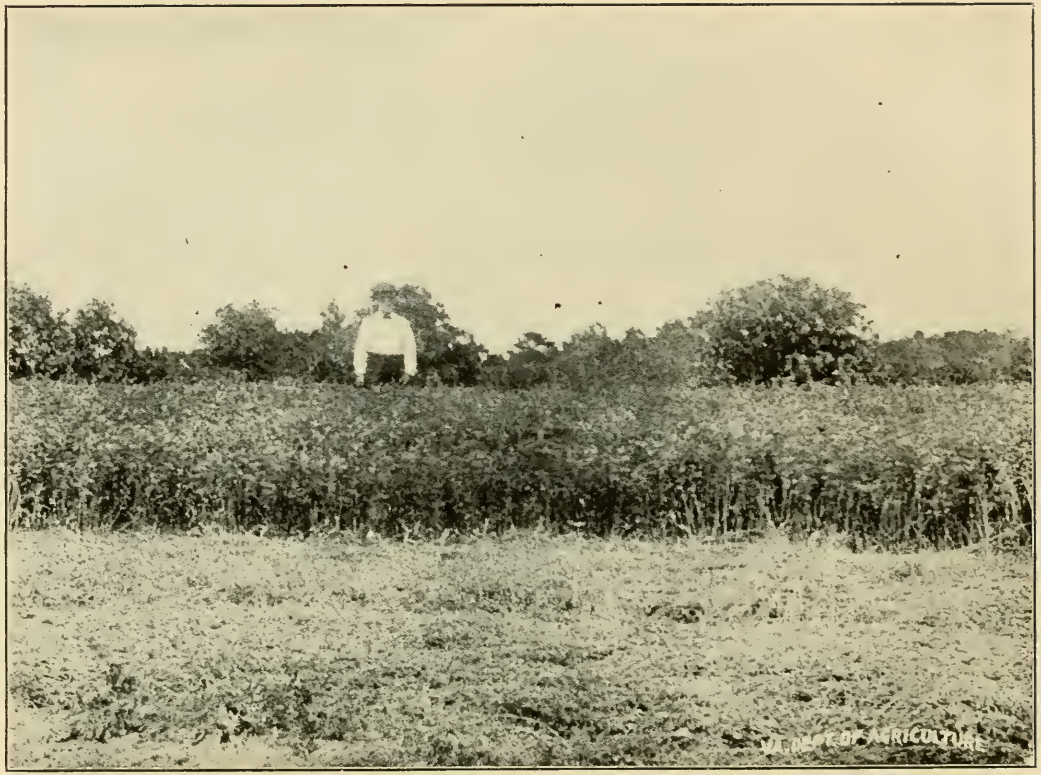
Let us briefly consider these inducements in the order named.

SITUATION

As heretofore stated, Virginia is midway of the Atlantic tier of States, removed alike from the severe winters of the Northern States, and the long, debilitating summers of the States farther south. She possesses every variety of surface: bold mountains, broken uplands, valleys, meadows, lowlands, and the swamp lands of the coastal plain. The two ranges of mountains that extend through the State from northeast to southwest protect it from the storms and tornadoes that devastate the northwest. At Hampton Roads, she has the largest, deepest, safest and best sheltered harbor on the Atlantic. Her ports of Norfolk and Newport News are nearer than is New York to the great centres of population and areas of production, of the northwest. Chicago is fifty miles nearer by direct line to Norfolk than it is to New York.

CLIMATE

The climate of Virginia is mild and healthful. The winters are less severe than in the northern and northwestern States, or even the western localities of the same latitude; while the occasional periods of extreme heat in the summer are not more oppressive than in many portions of the north. The diversified physical features exercise a marked influence on the climate, the temperature varying in the several sections according to their elevation, latitude, and distance from the ocean. The variation is from a mean annual temperature of 64° in the low Tidewater belt to 48° in the elevated mountain regions. The average temperature of the State is 56°. The summer heat of the Tidewater is tempered by the sea-breezes; while in the mountain section the warm south-



GROWING ALFALFA IN VIRGINIA.

west trade winds, blowing through the long parallel valleys, impart to them, and the enclosing mountains, moisture borne from the Gulf of Mexico. As a place to live in all the year round, Virginia has no equal. The summers are not debilitating, and the occasional days of oppressive heat are succeeded by nights of refreshing sleep. The winters are never marked by extreme or protracted severity. Snow rarely covers the ground for any great length of time, and the number of bright, sunny days, even in the winter season, is unusually large. In the spring the bright sunshine, pleasant days and budding nature invite every one out of doors, and hooks and reel are in demand. Autumn, to many, is the most delightful time of the year. The bright, warm, sunny days, with just enough edge to the air to make one feel like moving, the cool nights unsurpassed for sleeping, the rich and varied colored wild flowers and the many colored autumn leaves, all conspire to make one stay out of doors and absorb health and life. Partridge and pheasant shooting, and fox hunting in the glorious autumn weather furnish the finest sport for the most exacting sportsman.

The number of murky, foggy days is very small, and conversely the number of sunny days is unusually large. The United States Weather Bureau gives as the number of fair and clear days for Hampton Roads 258.8, while for Boston 237.6. Thus the number of days when one is kept in doors on account of the weather is very small.

In the more western portion of the State the temperature is lower generally, and in the southwest mountains the snow sometimes lies on the ground for a considerable time, but the healthfulness of this region is most excellent, and the size and physique of the men is superb.

Along the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge there is a belt of country between 1,000 and 2,500 feet above sea level, in which the humidity is exceedingly low, and in which the number of sunny days is very large. This region has little dew at night, owing to its low humidity, and has been found beneficial for consumptives and those troubled with pulmonary diseases.

Virginia is also exceptionally free from wind storms and hurricanes, never having any like those which frequent the western plains and the States of the southwest. Such a thing as a dwelling house being blown over is a practically unknown occurrence.

FISHING IN VIRGINIA WATERS.

Below is the mean monthly temperature of Virginia, Fahrenheit, for the last five years taken in July and December by the U. S. Weather Bureau of Richmond:

Mean monthly temperature	July	Dec.
1901	78.6	35.7
1902	76.5	37.9
1903	75.5	32.8
1904	73.5	34.4
1905	75.4	37.7

The westerly winds are the prevailing winds.

The annual rainfall is from forty to sixty inches. It is fairly well distributed through the entire year.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Although Virginia has very large, varied and important interests outside of agriculture, still agriculture has been, and is, her greatest and most important interest, and is the occupation of the great majority of her people. She is essentially an agricultural State. The principal agricultural products are tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, buckwheat, barley and the native and cultivated grasses, which, together with the clovers, yield an abundance of hay. In the seaboard section, particularly in the vicinity of Norfolk and on the Eastern Shore, there are extensive areas devoted to truck-farming, an industry which annually sends millions of dollars worth of garden and farm vegetables and products to the markets of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. In this same section, especially in the counties that form the southeastern portion of the State, between the James River and the North Carolina line, the cultivation of the peanut is an extensive and profitable industry, the annual value of the crop being about two and a half million dollars. Virginia raises more, and better, peanuts than any State in the Union. The cereals are widespread over the State, but the Valley is pre-eminently the grain-producing region. Tobacco is, in a very large part of the State, the staple principally relied on as a money-making crop. Only one State in the Union, Kentucky, produces more tobacco than Virginia. The "Virginia Leaf," the finest tobacco raised in the United States, has a world-wide reputation for excellence. It thrives best in the uplands of Middle Virginia and in the Piedmont. In Halifax, Pittsylvania, and Henry counties, bordering on the

CORN FIELD, YIELD 90 BUSHELS PER ACRE, IN VIRGINIA.

North Carolina line, midway of the State and in smaller areas of contiguous counties, the famous "bright tobacco" is raised. This always commands a high price.

There is every conceivable variety of soil in Virginia, from the almost pure sand of the sea coast to the stiff clay of the western portions. Although of such variety, there is one noteworthy fact, and that is the ease with which nearly all of the soil can be cultivated, and its ready response to judicious treatment.

Owing to the great difference of altitude of the various parts of the State, giving rise to a great diversity of climate conditions, and to the almost endless variety of soils within her borders, Virginia can, and does, grow practically everything raised in the United States except the tropical and sub-tropical fruits. If there is anyone, anywhere, who desires to take up any special branch of agriculture or desires to devote his time to the raising of any variety of cereal, grass, legumes, fruit or animal, he can find in Virginia land and conditions ideally suitable to that identical thing.

Under the head of agricultural resources we might appropriately treat fruits. But they will be assigned to a separate head.

NORTHERN AND WESTERN FARMERS IN VIRGINIA

The following letters from a few northern and western farmers who have settled in Virginia, selected from a number of other similar communications, and one from Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Ex-U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, will be found interesting to home-seekers:

By J. Sterling Morton,
Secretary of Agriculture.

The New York Sun says: "J. Sterling Morton, Secretary of Agriculture, has discovered that the late Horace Greeley's advice to young men, to 'Go West,' is no longer sound, and, that owing to changed conditions in the South, the well-wishers of Young America should now urge them to go to Virginia.

"Were I young and about to buy a farm—and if I were young, buying a farm is exactly what I'd go first about—I'd get a farm in Virginia. I was out through the State the other day. To say that I was amazed would not any more than express it. I was fairly astonished. I never saw better fields or finer crops any where. It's a garden. One has, as some fellow said about some other locality, but to tickle the soil and it laughs with a harvest.

Corn? I met face to face with as vigorous and robust fields as ever waved in Illinois. Other crops were the same.

"As a mere crop producer, the Virginia farm would stand shoulder to shoulder with any in the West, and yet, while you buy a farm of 160 acres in Texas, say, for $8,800.00, I'll take the same $8,800.-00 and buy and locate myself in Virginia, within three hours' drive of the capital of the country, on a fraction over five hundred and eighty-six acres. Just as good land, as I told you before, only instead of one hundred and sixty acres, you get five hundred and eighty-six acres for $8,800.

PEACHES.

"Yes, I said I could cite farms and figures to support what I suggest. I am not an advertising medium for any particular piece of Virginia real estate, but, skipping names and boundary lines, there are 800 acres, twenty-six miles from Washington, with the Potomac River washing its feet, covered with forest trees, and you can buy it for fifteen dollars an acre, just $12,000. A friend of mine bought a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty acres-richest kind of soil; magnificent brick house, one of those old, timers, about one hundred years old, but in perfect shape as if carpenters and masons got through yesterday. What do you think he paid? Perfectly appointed farm, remember; brick barn,

all in the best of shape, and within half a day's drive, with the buggy, of Washington. Now, what do you think he gave? Four thousand dollars; just twenty-five dollars an acre. The place would have been worth $16,000 or $20,000 in Iowa. It made me want a Virginia farm myself when I saw it."

J. Sterling Morton.
Ex-Secretary Agriculture United States.

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA.

I came to Prince George County in 1902, from Spink County S. D., where I resided since 1881. After spending a number of years traveling about, visiting nearly all the States east of the Mississippi, in search of a genial climate and good soil, I was convinced that Virginia was the place. I purchased a farm of 400 acres and am now getting it in a very fine state of cultivation for all the cereals and stock raising. This section is exceedingly well adapted to the raising of cattle, hogs and sheep, all of which I am raising successfully and making money.

There is nothing would induce me to go back to South Dakota to live, since I am able to live here in comfort and receive larger net dividends than I ever could expect to realize on my former farm. I am more than pleased with my investment.

Yours very truly
(Signed) Wm. H. Denton.

FROM CALIFORNIA.

I moved to Virginia with my family six years ago from California, where we were very much disappointed in the climate, the heavy fogs of the coast causing rheumatic troubles and the intense heat of the inland valleys in the summer we could not stand.

Have visited nearly every State, and can honestly say I know of no climate as equable and pleasant where the water is so soft and pure, where the soil responds so quickly and abundantly to proper cultivation and encouragement, and where there is absolutely no malaria or mosquitos.

Our winter lasts about three months. Have plowed at times in all winter months. Our garden soil was never frozen over 3 inches at any time.

Dr. J. B. Ross.
Bedford City, Va.

FROM ILLINOIS.

I came to this State several years since and purchased a farm near Forest Depot, paying $14 per acre for the same. I did not

SEVENTEEN ROCKYFORD CANTALOUPES GROWING ON ONE VINE IN VIRGINIA.

expect to make more than a fair living for several years, but from the very first season I made much more than I anticipated. I produce all kinds of cereals, stock, and small fruits, and trucking, all of which has a home market at much better prices than I could hope to receive in the West.

I am raising more and better crops than I could produce on $40 land in South Dakota or $100 land in Illinois. I cheerfully send this word of greeting to Northern farmers who are in search of a better climate, good land at low prices and where the seasons are of sufficient length to garner the crop without being in haste all the time.

T. J. Ong,
Forest Depot, Va.

FROM INDIANA.

I came to Virginia broken down in health and bought a broken down farm about six miles from Lynchburg, which had not been worked since the war, thirty-six years previous. I was very unwell and could not do much work at first, but, notwithstanding that, I made a fairly good crop and sold off a quantity of bark and wood, and made more than I would have done at home. There is a ready and good market for all you can raise, and the prices are good. The people are glad to see you and aid you in every way in their power. There are good schools and churches, and I have never received more attention or been better entertained than I have been by some of the old ex-rebels I fought against in the late war. My health is good, and I feel like a new man, and would not sell my place at 50 per cent, advance; and I can say if Northern people came down here and attend to their business, they will be received with open arms and can do well.

E. R. Burr,
Lynchburg, Va.

FROM IOWA

To any person seeking a home away from the long and cold winters and the ever existing danger of cyclones in summer, we have this to say, come and see us at South Boston, Virginia. For thirty-four years we lived in the State of Iowa, and for the last five years in Southside, Virginia. We know that there are many people who live in constant dread of the cold winters, the deep snow and the awful blizzard. These can all be avoided by coming South, where one can find a most hospitable people, with many beautiful homes and ever ready to give a cordial welcome, and back of all this, cheap lands* * * * There are thousands of acres of tim-

ber land here that can be bought at from $6 to $10 an acre that would furnish grazing for sheep and Angora goats. The Angora cleans up the brush and brings the land in condition for more grass for the other lines of stock. We have many creeks and springs of excellent water, so that one can have living water in all fenced lots.

W. W. Stockwell,
South Boston, Va.

FROM NEBRASKA.

I came to Virginia from Nebraska fourteen years ago with very little money and purchased a very poor farm of 200 acres, for which

GRAPE GROWING IN VIRGINIA.

I paid $5 per acre, making a small cash payment; then went to work. The soil, while worn out, has responded very quickly to good farming and natural fertilizers. I soon paid for my farm and improved it in every form, until now I have it in fine shape, and have it well stocked, including improved machinery. Only a

short time since I purchased a second farm of 200 acres for cash. I am very much pleased with Virginia and am convinced that it is all right.

JOHN SEDRIG,
Marmora, Va.

FROM NEW YORK

I am a former resident of the Empire State, and came to Virginia a number of years since; induced to do so on account of the genial climate, geographical location, and the great future which I saw in the fertile, neglected farms of Virginia. I did not remove to my farm until 1898, and have resided here ever since. My plantations are now well improved, and last year a crop of 75 acres of wheat averaged 29.5 bushels per acre, some of this running in excess of 40 bushels per acre. A neighbor of mine raised in excess of 100 bushels of soy beans per acre; this by a Canadian farmer, who, like myself, does not care to return to the rigorous climate we left.

G. C. JACOBS.

FROM OHIO

After living here two years I find Virginia more pleasant to live in than Ohio. The people are friendly and sociable, and the lithia water has been a "God-send" to me. It has cured me of eczema after doctoring for thirty years without relief.

In regard to the land, the best improved here is fully equal to Ohio land that sells for $25 to $100 per acre, and if the Virginia land were side by side with it, it would bring the top price and this land can be bought for from $5 to $15 per acre. Next the crop. Last year's wheat was of good quality and averaged 15 to 20 bushels per acre; corn was unusually fine—as good as any one could ask, while fruit of all kinds was plentiful.

I am glad I came down to this healthful climate, this wonderful water, these big-hearted people, and other conditions that go to make life worth living. I have no desire to return North.

GEO. E. LUSK.

FROM WISCONSIN

Two years ago I came to Appomattox County from Wisconsin and purchased a farm. When I arrived I was unable to do any farm work. Now I can attend to my farm and my health is greatly improved. I like the country so well that last year I purchased another farm for my son. I would rather live here with my present health on one meal a day than in Wisconsin on three.

I have paid every dollar on both farms, and like the land better every year I live on it. We can raise anything in Virginia that

GROWING ONIONS IN VIRGINIA.

can be grown in the North or Northwest. I consider this a great country, and the lands are far below the real value in price.

JOHN V. PHILLIPS, SR.,
Vera, Va.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF SOIL PRODUCTION IN NORFOLK COUNTY

It is both interesting and wonderful to note the productiveness of the soil in the trucking belt around Norfolk, Virginia. A leading farmer and trucker this morning said, "Without doubt the trucking lands around Norfolk, Virginia, are the finest in the entire United States.

This gentleman was entitled to a very respectful hearing, and we had the greatest confidence in his judgment and intelligence, for his experience, as a trucker, was the very best possible evidence in favor of his statement.

Our attention was called to a little 4-acre patch of land, in snaps (beans), now just nicely in the pod and ready to go north in a very few days. Answering our questions the owner stated that in September last he sowed spinach on said four acres. Between Christmas and 1st of March following he cut and sold the spinach at the rate of 100 barrels to the acre, at a price ranging from $2 to $7 per barrel—an average of $4.50 per barrel. Early in March the 4 acres were set out to lettuce, setting the plants in the open air with no protection whatever, 175,000 plants on the 4 acres. He shipped 450 half-barrel baskets of lettuce to the acre, at a price ranging from $2 to $2.75 per basket.

Early in April, just before the lettuce was ready to ship, he planted snap beans between the lettuce rows; and to day, June 2d, these are the finest beans we have seen this season.

Owner says he will have 150 half-barrel baskets to the acre; but we think he will surely have nearer 250. However, 150 will be enough, for he will sell the same for from $1 up to $2 per basket; perhaps even higher.

The last week in May he planted cantaloupes between the bean rows, which, when marketed in July, will make four crops from the same land in one year's time. The cantaloupes will be good for 250 crates to the acre, and the price will run from $1 to $1.50 per crate.

A careful investigation of these "facts, figures, and features" will show that his gross sales will easily reach $2,000 per acre, and

A VIRGINIA APPLE ORCHARD 20 YEARS OLD---YIELD, 13 BARRELS OF PICKED APPLES PER TREE LAST CROP.

his net profits depend largely upon the man and the management; but they surely should not be less than $1,000 clear, clean profit to the acre.

This is for farming done all out doors. No hot house or hot bed work—not a bit of it. It is all out-of-doors work, with no extra expense for hot beds, cold frames, hot houses, or extra expenses whatever.

We are each day more and more thoroughly convinced that "intensive" thorough tillage and care of the soil will not only pay remarkably well here; but it will pay better here than at any other point or place in the United States.

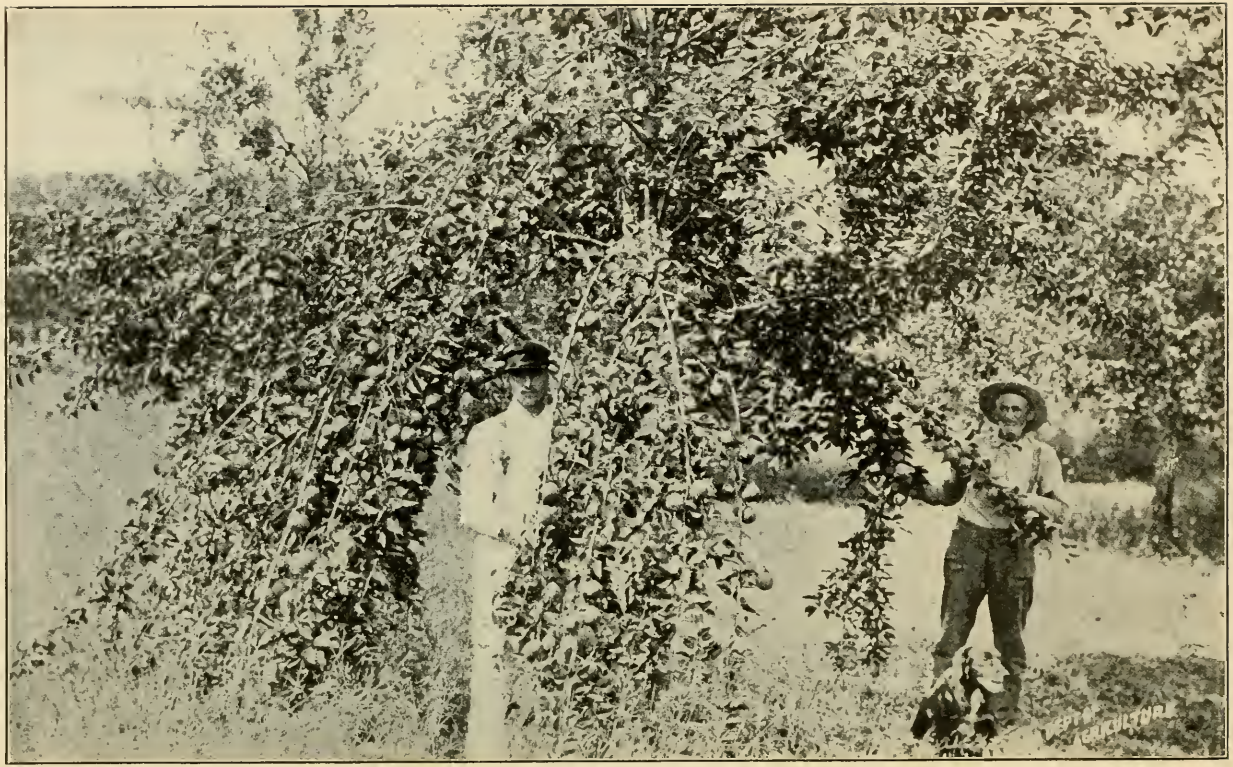
Without any doubt, whatever, the soil is the finest market garden or trucking soil in the entire country. The climate also is largely in our favor, as the late and early frosts are kept off by the near proximity of the sea.

In regard to cost to get our farm products to market, we are within twenty-five miles of fully 10,000,000 consumers, that is to say, measured by freight rates, we are within twenty-five miles of 10,000,000 hungry consumers of our soil products.

If measured by hours, we are within twelve hours of 20,000,000 consumers. Upon the soil, climate, and markets depend the success of the tillers of the soil—and these three factors are decidedly in our favor.

FRUITS

Virginia is one of the most highly-favored fruit-growing States in the Union. Indeed, when the variety, abundance, and excellence of its fruits are considered, it is doubtful if any other State can compare with it in this respect. Apples, peaches, pears, cherries, quinces, plums, damsons, and grapes are in great abundance, while the smaller fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and currants are plentiful. The foothills of the Piedmont and Blue Ridge are specially adapted to the apple, some orchards producing as much as from $450 to $500 per acre. The peach, requiring a somewhat warmer climate, abounds more plentifully in Middle Virginia and Tidewater. The eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge are especially prolific in grapes, Albemarle county taking the lead in their cultivation. They are of excellent quality and flavor, both for table use and wine making. The Monticello Wine Company of Charlottesville, Albemarle county, enjoys a world-wide reputation for its wine, particularly its clarets.



PEAR ORCHARD, 5 YEARS OLD IN VIRGINIA.

At the Paris World's Exhibition in 1878, this was the only American wine that received a medal and diploma; and such was also the case at the Paris Exposition of 1889.

Apples may be said to be the principal fruit crop of the State. They are extensively grown, and there is a yearly increasing number of trees planted. In one of the Valley counties a 17-year-old orchard of 1,150 trees produced an apple crop in 1905 which brought the owner $10,000, another of fifty 20-year trees brought $700. Mr. H. E. Vandeman, one of the best-known horticulturists in the country, says that there is not in all North America a better place to plant orchards than in Virginia. He says: "For rich apple soil, good flavor, and keeping qualities of the fruit, and nearness to the great markets of the East and Europe, your country is wonderfully favored."

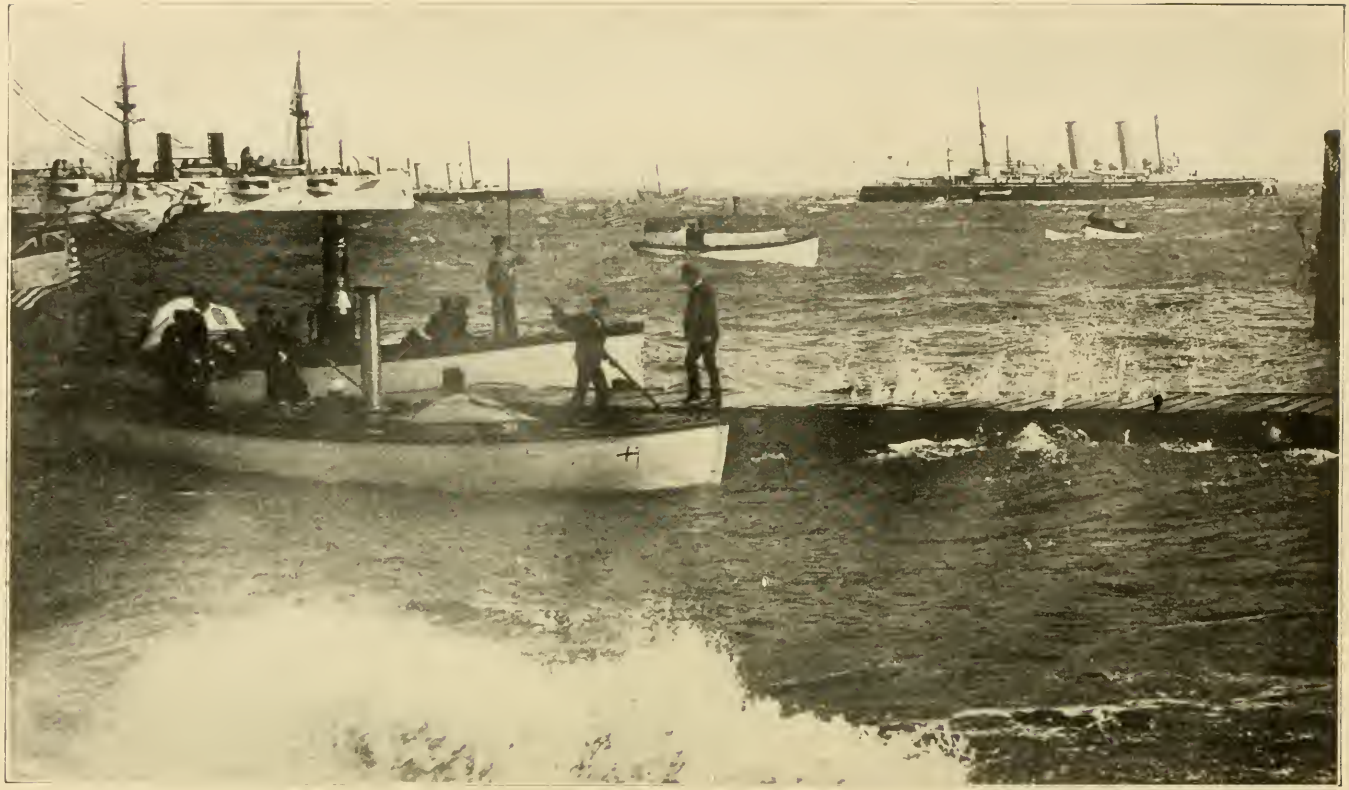
The trees attain a fine size and live to a good old age, and produce most abundantly. In Patrick county there is a tree 9 feet 5 inches around which has borne 110 bushels of apples at a single crop. There are other trees which have borne even more. One farmer in Albemarle county has received more than $15,000 for a single crop of Albemarle Pippins grown on twenty acres of land. This Pippin is considered the most deliciously flavored apple in the world. Sixty years ago the Hon. Andrew Stevenson, of Albemarle, when minister from this country to England, presented a barrel of "Albemarle Pippins" to Queen Victoria, and from that day to this it has been the favorite apple in the royal household of Great Britain. Although the Blue Ridge and Piedmont sections are more particularly adapted to the apple, they are grown in great abundance in every part of the State.

The fig, pomegranate, and other delicate fruits flourish in the Tidewater region.

We have mentioned the cultivated fruits; but in many sections there will be found growing wild, in great abundance, the strawberry, the whortleberry, the haw, the persimmon, the plum, the blackberry, the dewberry, a fine variety of grapes for jellies and for wines, the cherry, the raspberry, and the mulberry, and also will be found the chestnut, hazelnut, the walnut, the hickorynut, the beechnut, and the chinquepin.

RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY

Five large and navigable rivers, with their affluents and tributaries, drain five-sixths of the State. These all empty into the



NAVAL RENDEZVOUS, HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA.

Atlantic, four of them through the Chesapeake Bay, and one through Albemarle Sound. The four that empty into the Chesapeake are the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James. The one that empties into Albemarle Sound is the Roanoke or Staunton. These are all navigable to the head of Tidewater by large steamboats and sailing vessels. Besides these there are other long and copious streams or rivers, the Shenandoah that flows through the valley, and New River and Clinch in Southwest Virginia. These rivers are all supplied by multitudinous streams: rivulets and creeks; many of these long, and of sufficient size to entitle them to the name of rivers. Some of these are the Potomac creek and Occoquan that flow into the Potomac; the Rapid Anne that is a bold affluent of the Rappahannock; the Mattapony and Pamunkey that at their confluence form the York; the Chickahominy, Appomattox, Rivanna, Willis, Slate, Rockfish, South, North, Cowpasture and Jackson, tributaries, of the James; the Dan, Otter and Pig that flow into the Roanoke. These affluents are but a few of the hundreds of streams in every part of the State that fall below the dimensions of rivers but which, in conjunction with the bolder streams, irrigate the country, furnish inexhaustible water power, supply numerous varieties of fish, furnish channels for inland navigation, and by enlivening the landscapes, impart a picturesqueness to the scenery on all sides. Never-failing springs of pure, sparkling water abound in every section, many of them possessing medicinal properties of a high order. The statement is made, upon high authority, that no State possesses such an abundant supply of mineral waters. The rainfall is abundant and evenly distributed, there being two sources of rain-supply, one from the Atlantic by the southeast winds and one from the gulf by the winds from the southwest. The annual rainfall is 35 inches in the southwest and 55 inches on the eastern coast, the average throughout the State being about 43 inches.

From the above statements, it can easily be believed that Virginia is one of the most abundantly watered countries upon the face of the earth. There can scarcely be found a square mile on which there is not either a running stream or a bold spring. There is probably no other area of the world's surface, of equal dimensions, that is so abundantly and uniformly watered.

VALUABLE WATER POWER IN VIRGINIA.

WATER POWER

In this busy age, when every accessory of human industry is eagerly utilized, it may not be amiss to call more particular attention to the marvelous supply of water power which the rivers and streams of the State afford. In this connection we will quote the following passage from the pamphlet entitled "Information for the Homeseeker and Investor," published by this Department (the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Immigration), more particularly for the purpose of distribution at the recent St. Louis Exposition.

Even in Tidewater, the flattest part of the State, the numerous smaller rivers and creeks have sufficient fall to furnish ample water power for grist mills and, of course, the same power could be used for other purposes. Where Tidewater joins Middle Virginia, there is a rocky ledge which rises up quite abruptly, and over which all streams have to pour to reach the ocean. In pouring over that ledge rapids are formed which give magnificent water power. This water power is especially fine just above Alexandria, on the Potomac; at Fredericksburg, on the Rappahannock; at Richmond, on the James, and at Petersburg, on the Appomattox.

To take only one locality as an illustration:

At Richmond, in a distance of three and one-half miles, there is a fall of 84 feet, and in a distance of nine miles there is a fall of 118 feet. The other streams mentioned have practically the same fall. This enormous water power, occurring just at the head of Tidewater and deep water navigation, gives the manufacturer who uses this power the benefit of both railway and water transportation. As the mountainous region is approached, every river, creek and branch is capable of furnishing fine water power. The effective fall of the James from Lynchburg to Richmond, a distance of 146.5 miles, is 429 feet; between Lynchburg and Buchanan, 50 miles, the effective fall is 299 feet; between Buchanan and Covington, a distance of 47 miles, the effective fall is 436 feet. "Indeed," as Commodore M. F. Maury says, "the James river and its tributaries alone afford water power enough to line their banks from Covington and Lexington, with a single row of factories, all the way to Richmond." New River also furnishes magnificent water power. In fact, all through the State an abundance

of the finest water power is awaiting development. A very small proportion of this power is at present developed.

Of the four navigable rivers of Virginia that are tidal to the ocean, three of them, the Potomac, Rappahannock, and James, take their rise in the mountain region and wind through landscapes of surpassing loveliness to deliver their waters into that Bay which, like an inland sea, washes her eastern front. The York, a wide, straight stream, navigable for the largest vessels, is less than forty miles in length, and is rather an estuary, or arm of the Bay, than a river. The Mattapony and Pamunkey, that unite at West Point to form the York, drain a considerable portion of Tidewater and Middle Virginia.

The Chesapeake Bay is not only the most picturesque and beautiful sheet of water upon the globe but it has no equal for the abundance and variety of the marine food which it supplies. It is 200 miles long, with an average width of 15 miles. It has the most abundant oyster beds in the world, and its Lynnhaven Bay oyster is confessedly the largest and most delicious specimen of this bivalve to be found in any water. It supplies, in inexhaustive quantities, every fish known to the southern waters, with the exception of the pampano, which is peculiar to the Gulf of Mexico. Turtles, crabs, terrapins, lobsters and clams abound, while birds by tens of thousands, crowd its waters, and the inlets and marshes that mark its borders—swans, geese, ducks and sora. The canvass back duck, that feeds on the wild celery and grasses that fringe its banks, possesses a game flavor that is coveted by the epicure.

We have not overdrawn the picture of the attractive invitation which Virginia extends to the home-seeker, particularly the one who desires to reside in the country and follow the life of a farmer, With her diversified surface and varied elevation, her mild climate. fine rainfall, well distributed through the year, Virginia, with her numerous water courses and streams, and her fertile soil, presents an opportunity for all kinds of agricultural pursuits. The home-seeker can find an attractive location for any line of cultivation he may wish to follow. From the fish and oysters of the bays and estuaries, the peanut growing and trucking of the Tidewater, the raising of corn, wheat, oats, tobacco, fruits, and stock of the Piedmont, to the blue grass grazing of the more mountainous section, he has a varied field of selection.

FORESTS

The forests of Virginia abound in an unusual variety of woods, especially the valuable hardwoods, so important in modern construction. In these forests are found every wood known to southern soils except the noted red cedar of Alabama. Most of the uncultivated land consists of woodland tracts. Pine forests and cypress swamps cover vast areas of the Tidewater section. This soil favors also the growth of the cedar, willow, locust, juniper and gum, and to some extent the oak—woods that furnish the best material for staves, shingles, ship-timber, and sawed lumber. In the central and western sections are found the oak, hickory, walnut, chestnut, birch, beech, maple, poplar, cherry, ash, sycamore and elm. In the higher latitudes are found the hemlock, spruce, and white pine. Oak, pines and poplar are the chief woods for building. The durable hardwoods, oak, hickory, walnut and chestnut, are valuable in the manufacture of agricultural implements, cars, and furniture. Paper is made from the pulp of the soft poplar. Oak bark and sumac leaves are extensively used in tanning and dyeing.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF VIRGINIA

Virginia presents probably the most promising field for investment in its vast resources of almost every known commercial mineral product. Building stone, granite, limestone, slate, soapstone mica, clays of all kinds available, from the common red brick to the finest pottery-clay, coal, coke, iron, lead, zinc, tin, copper, manganese, pyrites, arsenic, gypsum, salt, baryta, marble, asbestos, gold and silver are all found more or less in paying quantities.

Cheap labor, fuel, timber and water are abundant. Transportation facilities are of the best, and climatic conditions are such that out-door work can be carried on the year round.

The mineral lands can be acquired at the most reasonable prices, and every facility is offered to induce capital to undertake the development of these products.

No State in the Union produces such a variety of mineral waters nor contains such a number of medicinal springs, situated, for the most part, in a delightful summer climate in the most beautiful scenic parts of the Blue Ridge and Alleghany mountains, offering ideal locations for summer and health resorts; some of which are

UNBROKEN MOUNTAINS OF WHITE PINE FORESTS IN VIRGINIA.

now world-famous, but the most of them are not utilized on an extensive scale. They, however, only lack the necessary capital and enterprise to make them equally famous with their more fortunate neighbors.

Building stones of superior quality are found in a large part of the State. Notably from Richmond west to the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge. Chesterfield and Henrico granites are well known outside of the State, having been used in building the postoffices of Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa.

Buckingham slate is being shipped to England in competition with the Scotch and Welsh slate, and orders cannot be filled fast enough. This is a guarantee not only of quality but cheapness of production.

Soapstone, of a very fine quality, is produced near Schuyler, in Nelson County, and is mostly marketed as a finished product.

Limestone from the quarries of the Shenandoah Valley and southwest is well known.

Clays, from that used for common brick making to pure kaolin for China clay, are found in abundance east of a line running through Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Petersburg and Emporia.

Coal-bearing formations cover an area of about 2,120 square miles in the State. The most notable deposits are those of the Richmond coal basin. Pocahontas Flat Top Field, Tazewell County, the Clinch Valley and Big Stone Gap districts in Wise and Lee counties, and the hard coals of Price and Brush Mountains, Montgomery county.

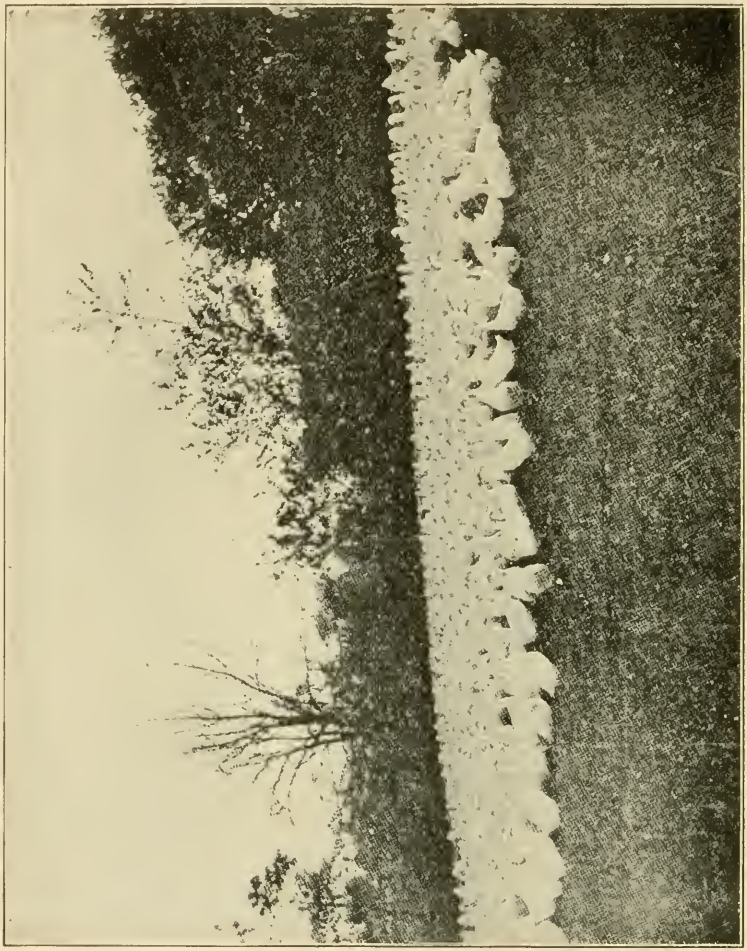
Copper ore is found in Grayson, Carroll, Floyd, Halifax, Charlotte, Prince Edward, Buckingham, Louisa, Fluvanna and Goochland counties, and in the igneous rocks of the Blue Ridge, notably Warren county. The most extensive development has been done in Halifax county, where there are a number of mines producing ore in paying quantities and showing most excellent prospects for extensive development.

Tin is found in Rockbridge and Nelson. In Rockbridge, at least two parallel workable vein systems exist.

Lead and zinc are found in many parts of the State, notably, Wythe, Pulaski, Smyth, Giles, Bland, Tazewell, Russell, Scott, and Grayson counties. The most extensive development is in

Wythe county, at Austinville, on New River. Work has gone to a depth of 200 feet without getting to the bottom of the deposit.

The U. S. Arsenic Mines Co. have a plant near Ferris Ford in Floyd county, for the production of white arsenic from their mines at this point.



A VIRGINIA DUCK FARM.—60,000 DUCKS WERE SOLD LAST YEAR.

Asbestos is found in Franklin, Buckingham, Amelia, Wythe, Floyd, Grayson, Bedford, Goochland and Fauquier counties.

Deposits of commercial mica are found in Caroline, Spottsylvania, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan, Buckingham, Prince Edward, and Amelia counties.

The iron industry of Virginia is so well known that very little need be said about it. The four varieties of ore used in iron manufacture—magnetite, specular ore, limonite and spathic ore—are all found in the iron ore regions of Virginia; the first three in great abundance.

Deposits of manganese ore, including high grade oxides and manganiferous iron ore, occur widely distributed through the State, particularly along the James River Valley and the Valley of Virginia, and have been extensively developed at several points.

Of high grade ores, Virginia has for many years supplied the greater part of the total output of the United States, the most of it coming from the well-known Crimora mines, situated in Augusta county, about two miles east of Crimora station, on the Norfolk and Western railroad.

Pyrite is one of the most frequently occurring minerals, and is found in the rocks in all parts of the State. It is a constituent of the ore of all the gold mines in the Virginia belt below water level and it is only when auriferous, or when it occurs comparatively pure and in large quantities, that it is commercially valuable.

The extensive deposits of Louisa county, which are being worked by the Sulphur Mines and Railroad Company, and the Arminius Copper Company, are of great interest and importance, contributing as they do about 150,000 tons annually of high grade pyrites—more than half of the total output of the United States. The deposits extend in a northeast and southwest direction in the vicinity of Mineral City, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, for a distance of five miles, and consist of a succession of great lenticular masses of high-grade pyrite, lying conformably with the stratification of the enclosing hydromica and talcose slate rocks. In extent these deposits can only be compared with those of Norway, Spain and Portugal, and they possess the advantage over the European deposits of being quite free from arsenic.

Gold is found in two distinct belts, crossing the State in a northeasterly and southwesterly direction, the western ore passing through Floyd county and the counties to the northeast and southwest of it. The eastern belt which, so far as it is at present known, is the more important of the two, begins at the Maryland line about

TAKING UP THE PEANUT CROP IN VIRGINIA.

14 miles west of Washington City, and extends across the State to the North Carolina line, passing through the counties of Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, Stafford, Culpeper, Spottsylvania, Orange, Louisa, Fluvanna, Goochland, Buckingham, Cumberland, Appomattox, Campbell, Pittsylvania, and a portion of Halifax.

In most of these counties mining for gold was successfully carried on previous to the war, but since that time little or no intelligent work has been done. Many attempts have been made on a small scale with inexperienced management and insufficient capital and, for the most part, failure has been caused by putting all available funds into a mill to treat the ore, while in no case has sufficient development work been done to warrant this expenditure.

There is no doubt that were this belt worked with capital and experience, such as is employed in gold mining sections in the west (very few of which can show such well-defined and continuous veins), results would compare favorably.

It is a matter of Mint record that the mines in the State have produced from shallow workings (from 40 to 65 feet deep) several millions of dollars, and that with the crudest of mills. It is also a known fact that sulphide ores exist in the bottoms of some of these workings of payable value. Modern appliances, capital and enterpirse is all that is necessary to develop the belt into a marked feature in the production of gold in this country.

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

In respect to ready access to markets for the products of her soil, of her foundries and factories, and of her inexhaustible beds of coal and iron, as well as in respect to facility of purchase from the markets of the world without, Virginia is most favorably circumstanced. Five trunk lines of railroads penetrate and intersect the State. These, with their numerous branch lines, and their connections with other roads, place every portion of the State in communication with every principal port and city in the country. The lines of steamboats that ply the navigable streams of eastern Virginia afford commercial communication for large sections of the State with the markets of this country and of Europe. At Norfolk and Newport News are ports that maintain communication with the European markets by means of sea-going steamers and vessels, while from these ports is also kept up an extensive commerce along the Atlantic seaboard. The harbor of Hampton

A VIRGINIA OAT FIELD. YIELD, 70 BUSHELS PER ACRE.

Roads, upon which these ports sit like crowned queens of commerce, is the largest, deepest and safest upon the whole Atlantic coast. Upon its bosom the combined navies and commercial marine of the world can ride in safety, and with ample berth. As has been before stated, these ports are nearer than is New York to the great centers of population, and areas of production, of the west and northwest. Chicago is nearer by fifty miles, in a direct line, to Norfolk than it is to New York. The harbor on the southern coast of England, between the Isle of Wight and the mainland, has been named, from its safety, the "King's Chamber." Hampton Roads, sheltered by the Virginia capes from the storms of the Atlantic, may well be regarded as our King's Chamber.

NATURAL WONDERS

Many of the most marvelous natural wonders of the world are found in Virginia. The most widely known of these is the Natural Bridge, in Rockbridge county, 14 miles from Lexington. It is a stupendous bridge of rock, and from it the county (Rockbridge received its name. It is 215 feet and 6 inches from the creek below to the top of the span or arch above. The arch is 90 feet in length, 40 feet thick, and 60 feet wide; and across, there runs a public county road. On either side of this road there are trees and bushes, so that travelers frequently pass over the stupendous chasm without being aware of its presence. This bridge is part of the roof of an ancient limestone cave.

In the limestone section of the State there are numerous caves. The most noted of these are Weyer's Cave in Augusta county and the Luray Caverns in Page county. There are in both of these, numerous halls, chambers and grottoes, brilliant with stalactites and stalagmites, and adorned with other forms curiously wrought by the slow dripping of water through the centuries.

Crab Tree Falls near the summit of the Blue Ridge, in Nelson county, are formed by a branch of Tye river. They consist of three falls, the longest of these leaps of the stream being 500 feet. This freak of nature, and the unsurpassed mountain scenery of the surrounding region, attract many tourists. The Balcony Falls, immediately where Rockbridge, Amherst and Bedford counties corner, the passage where the James river cuts its way through the Blue Ridge, presents a scene of grandeur, little, if any, inferior to the passage of the Potomac at Harper's Ferry through the same range of mountains.

Mountain Lake, in Giles county, is a beautiful body of deep water, some 3,500 feet above the sea level. The water is so transparent that the bottom can be seen in every part. Pleasure boats sailing upon it pass above the trunks and tops of large trees that are plainly seen. This would indicate that the lake is not of very great antiquity. Mountain Lake is a great summer resort.

The Dismal Swamp may properly be accounted a natural wonder. It is an extensive region lying mostly in Virginia, but partly in North Carolina, and covered with dense forests of cypress, juniper, cedar and gum. It is a remote, weird region, inhabited by many wild animals. Its silence is broken by resounding echoes of the woodman's axe in hewing its trees that are of great value for the manufacture of buckets, tubs, and other varieties of wooden ware, and for shingles, staves and ship-timber. In the middle of the swamp is Lake Drummond (lying entirely on the Virginia side), a round body of water, six miles in diameter, being the largest lake in the State. It is noted for the purity of its amber-colored water, the hue being derived from the roots of cypress and juniper. This water will remain for years without becoming stale or stagnant, and is used by ships and vessels going on long sea voyages.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES

In the pamphlet heretofore referred to as prepared by the Agricultural Department for distribution at the St. Louis Exposition, there is an accurate account of the educational advantages of Virginia which is here transferred to this handbook:

Virginia has, from early colonial days, been a leader in educational matters. While the system of African slavery and the long distances between the great plantations prevented the development of a public school system like that in the New England colonies, yet some of the first free schools on the continent were in Virginia. William and Mary College, next to Harvard, the oldest in America, was founded in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and sent out from her walls fifteen United States Senators, seventy members of the Federal House of Representatives, seventeen Governors, thirty-seven Judges, three Presidents—Jefferson, Monroe, and Tyler—and the great Chief Justice John Marshall. Excellent private schools abounded in Virginia prior to the Revolution; but Mr. Jefferson, who believed that in a democracy all the people should be educated, introduced into the General Assembly, while the Revolutionary War was going on, a bill for the establishment of a complete system of public instruc-

tion from the primary school to the university. The bill failed to become a law, but in 1797, that portion of Jefferson's bill providing for primary schools was enacted into a law, but the execution was, unfortunately, left with the old County Court, which failed to carry the law into operation. Mr. Jefferson lived to see the State University opened, in 1825, but his chief concern to the day of his death wat the establishment of a system of primary public schools in which the children of all the people could be educated.

The General Assembly enacted a public school law in 1846, leaving it optional with counties and cities to adopt it. When the war of secession came on, this system had been adopted in a number of counties and cities, but it was wiped out by the devastating waves of Civil War. The Convention of 1867 framed a Constitution that provided for a system of public free schools for every city and county of the State, and the General Assembly put the system into operation in 1870, four years before the Constitution required it.

The development of the public school system since its inauguration has been steady and progressive. During the last school year 9,965 schools were opened; 385,640 pupils were enrolled in them; the value of school property owned by districts was $4,250 000, and total amount spent for public schools was $2,667,167.24.

The people of Virginia are manifesting great interest in the movement for better schools. Associations for the improvement of the schools have been formed in every section of the State, and educators are constantly delivering addresses to interested audiences on the value of education and the importance of increasing the efficiency of our public school system. The Co-operative Education Commission, organized about one year ago, and composed of many of the leading citizens of Virginia, is doing effective work in arousing public sentiment throughout the State in favor of better public schools, and in every neighborhood the educational advantages are being enlarged.

The State Constitution, ordained in 1902, contains liberal provisions for public education, under the operation of which the local revenues for school purposes will be largely increased. The demand is going up from every section for better schoolhouses, better teachers, and longer school terms. In addition to the primary and grammar schools all the cities and towns, and many of the rural districts, have excellent public high schools.

GROWING COWPEAS IN VIRGINIA.

The State Female Normal School at Farmville and the State Male Normal School at William and Mary College afford excellent preparation for the work of teaching in the public schools. The Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg and the University of Virginia at Charlottesville are among the foremost institutions of the kind in this country. The Virginia Military Institution at Lexington, also a State institution, affords excellent instruction in military science, being second only to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

At William and Mary the Virginia students get the tuition free.

At the University of Virginia the academical students (but not the professional) from Virginia receive their tuition free. At the Virginia Polytechnic Institute 400 students may receive free tuition, that is four for each member of the House of Delegates.

At the Virginia Military Institute there may be fifty cadets who receive board and tuition free, one from each senatorial district and ten from the State at large.

At the State Female Normal School there may be one student from each county and city in the State who shall receive tuition free.

In addition to these State institutions of higher learning, there are many excellent denominational colleges for both sexes in Virginia at which students can obtain an education in the higher branches at comparatively a small cost. Mention should also be made of the private academies and high schools which may be found in every section of the State.

It will thus be seen that Virginia has a complete system of public instruction, extending from the primary grades to the university and the technical schools, and many private high schools, academies, and colleges.

Industrial training has been introduced into the public schools of some of the cities and towns, and the State Board of Education has just made provision for introducing instruction in agriculture into the rural public schools.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton is one of the most efficient of its kind in the country.

Virginia maintains an efficient system of public schools for colored children, and the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute and the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute at Farmville, both State institutions, afford unsurpassed facilities for practical education.

COWPEAS AND MILLET, IN VIRGINIA—$2\frac{1}{2}$ TONS OF HAY PER ACRE.

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE IN THE LAST CENSUS

The following items of interest are taken from the last census, 1900, the crops reported being those grown in 1899:

SUMMER APPLES IN VIRGINIA.

Virginia increased in the value of vegetables produced in the last ten years 491 per cent. The value of all kinds of vegetables produced in the year 1899 was $9,000,000. The value of all crops was $54,930,000. Average value per acre of vegetables, $47.63. Average value for all crops, $12.06, as compared with States like Ohio, whose average value per acre for all crops was $12.59; of vegetables, $44.97. Pennsylvania's average value per acre for all crops was $13.86; of vegetables, $51.00.

The average value per acre of corn last year in Virginia was $11.55; in Indiana, $11.59; in Iowa, $10.64.

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In wheat, the average value in Virginia was $7.31 per acre; in Indiana, $7.80, and in Iowa, $7.69 per acre.

The average value per acre in potatoes in Virginia was $53.76; in Michigan, $50.16; in Ohio, $50.63 per acre.

In hay, the average value per acre in Virginia was $17.85; in Indiana, $12.58; in Illinois, $14.70 per acre. (United States agricultural report, 1903.)

Virginia is now the richest State in the South except Texas. Her agricultural products sold last year for one hundred and two million dollars.

Virginia ranks first in the United States as producer of kale and spinach. She ranks second in the production of cabbage, and third in tobacco, and is the largest peanut-producing State.

Virginia ranks eighth in the number of apple trees growing.

In the following table is given a list of those counties in the State growing more than 100,000 apple trees:

	Apple	Peach	Pear
Albemarle	505,000	110,000	9,800
Augusta	344,000	48,000	8,800
Bedford	266,000	50,000	3,300
Patrick	275,000	10,000	950
Rockingham	229,000	48,000	6,500
Nelson	220,000	16,000	950
Franklin	210,000	66,000	1,800
Rappahannock	200,000	34,000	4,000
Frederick	192,000	160,000	1,000
Floyd	196,000	30,000	10,000
Carroll	193,000	7,500	660
Botetourt	191,000	105,000	5,500
Roanoke	181,000	54,000	5,000
Pittsylvania	183,000	68,000	5,500
Shenandoah	172,500	70,000	5,500
Washington	151,000	23,000	1,600
Rockbridge	140,000	31,000	4,200
Amherst	139,000	20,000	3,100
Scott	132,000	4,000	980
Lee	132,000	9,500	1,200
Madison	124,000	5,300	1,100
Fairfax	118,000	93,000	27,000

Crop of 1899 produced 10,000,000 bushels apples and 8,000,000 bushels peaches.

Sales of animal products year 1899: Wool, $409,600; milk, butter and cheese, $7,000,000; poultry, $6,681,553. Increase in live stock during the last ten years: Dairy cows, 8,242 head; neat cattle, 70,000 head; horses, 50,000 head; mules, 10,000 head; swine, 50,000 head.

For further information about Virginia write to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration, Richmond, Va.

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VIRGINIA

INFORMATION FOR THE HOMESEEKER AND INVESTOR.

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